

(62%) percent increase in employees in wholesale trade.

Overall, business appears to be making a generous contribution to the economic well-being of the county. This trend will probably continue with the increase in college students and tourists coming into the county. If the second home market continues to increase, business will be further strengthened.

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing has been increasing in the county over the past several years. Table 22 shows that investments totaling some \$8.4 million have been increased either through new or expanded units since 1960. Some 1900 new employees have been added during the same period of time.

Table 23 shows that in 1972 Jackson County had twenty manufacturing establishments with seven employing 20 or more workers. These manufacturing firms had a combined payroll of \$8 million in 1972. Table 24 gives the number of employees in manufacturing from 1963 through 1972. These figures indicate fluctuations in employment from year to year but appears to be steadily increasing since 1970. However, the 1974 - 75 Directory of North Carolina Manufacturing Firms indicates that the county has experienced a decrease in the number of manufacturing firms to 14.

In 1971, the average weekly earnings in manufacturing in Jackson County was \$96.70. The average weekly earnings for the state was \$119.23. Average weekly earnings for Jackson County workers was eighty-one (81%) percent of that of the State as a whole¹. In order to raise the average weekly earnings Jackson County should attempt to attract high technology industry, thus raising the value added by manufacturing and in turn weekly earnings of the employees.

¹North Carolina State Government, Statistical Abstract, 1973.